

I. Soviet Leadership.

A. Consistency of present Soviet tactics (internal - foreign policy) argues that there is at least temporary agreement within top leadership.

B. Beneath this agreement there are signs of tension. The top leadership has not yet stabilized.

1. Presidium member L. G. Melnikov was removed from his top Ukrainian post. He was criticized for incorrect handling of the Ukraine's Western Oblasts - long a seat of potential disaffection. He was also out of step with the new regime's policy of soft pedalling Stalin's harsh Russification policy. However, his removal was probably due to Moscow politics.

2. Appearance of Malyshev (and not Melnikov) at opera on 27 June suggests he has replaced Melnikov on the top fourteen man Party Presidium.

3. Malyshev is an important member of the technical bureaucracy with solid economic-administrative experience.

4. Absence of Beria at opera could prove extremely significant.

- a) Might indicate that Beria is to be scapegoat for inefficient security system in Germany and Satellites.

- b) However, it is too early to tell.

- 1) In the past not unusual for one or more

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- 2) Beria may be on security inspection tour in Germany and Satellites.
- 3) Pattern of replacement of MVD Ministers in the Soviet Republics suggests Beria's power continued through the month of June.